[1044] WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

CLAIMS

1. A method for a broadcast wireless communication system having a plurality of terminals, comprising:

determining at least one radio frequency (RF) quality requirement defining a minimum quality of communication service threshold for receiving broadcast information by at least one terminal over a broadcast communication channel;

associating the at least one RF quality requirement with a service threshold indicator (STI) value;

communicating the STI value to the at least one terminal;

determining at least one RF quality parameter of the broadcast communication channel, the RF quality parameter defining a degree of quality in which communication is received by the terminal over the broadcast communication channel;

comparing the RF quality parameter to the RF quality requirement corresponding to the communicated STI value; and

preventing the terminal from tuning to the broadcast communication channel providing that the RF quality parameter is lower than the RF quality requirement.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

assigning a broadcast access key (BAK) to the terminal, wherein the broadcast access key authenticates the terminal for receiving the broadcast information over the broadcast communication channel;

determining whether the BAK has been received by the terminal; and

preventing the terminal from receiving the BAK providing that the BAK has not been received and the RF quality parameter is lower than the RF quality requirement.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the STI value and the at least one corresponding RF quality requirement from a controller of the wireless communication system; and

storing the STI value and the at least one corresponding RF quality requirement in a memory of the terminal.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

displaying to a user of the terminal an indicator that the RF quality parameter is lower than the RF quality requirement.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein determining at least one RF quality requirement and at least one RF quality parameter is based on determining at least one of a frame error rate (FER), a ratio of the average transmit energy to the total transmit power spectral density (E_c/I_o), and receive (Rx) power.

6. A method for a broadcast wireless communication system having a plurality of terminals, comprising:

communicating a service threshold indicator (STI) value to at least one terminal, the STI value being indicative of at least one radio frequency (RF) quality requirement defining a minimum quality of service threshold for receiving broadcast information by the at least one terminal over a broadcast communication channel;

measuring at least one RF quality parameter of the broadcast communication channel, the RF quality parameter defining a degree of quality in which communication is received by the terminal over the broadcast communication channel; and

preventing the terminal from tuning to the broadcast communication channel providing that the RF quality parameter is lower than the RF quality requirement.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:

assigning a broadcast access key (BAK) to the terminal, wherein the broadcast access key authenticates the terminal for receiving the broadcast information over the broadcast communication channel;

determining whether the BAK has been received by the terminal; and

preventing the terminal from receiving the BAK providing that the BAK has not been received and the RF quality parameter is lower than the RF quality requirement.

8. The method of claim 6, further comprising:

receiving the STI value and the at least one corresponding RF quality requirement from a controller of the wireless communication system; and

storing the STI value and the at least one corresponding RF quality requirement in a memory of the terminal.

9. The method of claim 6, further comprising:

displaying to a user of the terminal an indicator that the RF quality parameter is lower than the RF quality requirement.

10. The method of claim 6, wherein determining at least one RF quality requirement and at least one RF quality parameter is based on determining one of a frame error rate (FER), a ratio of the average transmit energy to the total transmit power spectral density (E_c/I_o), and receive (Rx) power.

11. A broadcast wireless communication system, comprising:

at least one transmitter for transmitting broadcast information over a broadcast communication channel;

a plurality of terminals; and

a controller for determining at least one radio frequency (RF) quality requirement defining a minimum quality of communication service threshold for receiving broadcast information by at least one terminal of the plurality of terminals over a broadcast communication channel, and associating the at least one RF quality requirement with a service threshold indicator (STI) value;

wherein said at least one transmitter communicates the STI value to the at least one terminal; and

wherein the at least one terminal determines at least one RF quality parameter defining a degree of quality in which communication is received by the terminal over the broadcast communication channel, compares the RF quality parameter to the RF quality requirement corresponding to the communicated STI value, and prevents the terminal from tuning to the broadcast communication channel providing that the RF quality parameter is lower than the RF quality requirement.

12. The broadcast wireless communication system of claim 11, wherein said controller assigns a broadcast access key (BAK) to the terminal, the broadcast access key authenticating the terminal for receiving the broadcast information over the broadcast communication channel, and wherein the at least one terminal determines whether the BAK has been received and prevents receiving the BAK providing that the

BAK has not been received and the RF quality parameter is lower than the RF quality requirement.

13. The broadcast wireless communication system of claim 11, wherein said at least one terminal receives the STI value and the at least one corresponding RF quality requirement from a controller of the wireless communication system, and stores the STI value and the at least one corresponding RF quality requirement in a memory.

14. The broadcast wireless communication system of claim 11, wherein said at least one terminal displays to a user an indicator that the RF quality parameter is lower than the RF quality requirement.

15. The broadcast wireless communication system of claim 11, wherein said at least one RF quality requirement and at least one RF quality parameter is based on a frame error rate (FER), a ratio of the average transmit energy to the total transmit power spectral density (E_c/I_o), and receive (Rx) power.

16. An apparatus for a broadcast wireless communication system having a plurality of terminals, comprising:

means for communicating a service threshold indicator (STI) value to at least one terminal, the STI value being indicative of at least one radio frequency (RF) quality requirement defining a minimum quality of service threshold for receiving broadcast information by the at least one terminal over a broadcast communication channel;

means for measuring at least one RF quality parameter of the broadcast communication channel, the RF quality parameter defining a degree of quality in which communication is received by the terminal over the broadcast communication channel; and

means for preventing the terminal from tuning to the broadcast communication channel providing that the RF quality parameter is lower than the RF quality requirement.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:

means for assigning a broadcast access key (BAK) to the terminal, wherein the broadcast access key authenticates the terminal for receiving the broadcast information over the broadcast communication channel;

means for determining whether the BAK has been received by the terminal; and

means for preventing the terminal from receiving the BAK providing that the BAK has not been received and the RF quality parameter is lower than the RF quality requirement.

18. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:

means for receiving the STI value and the at least one corresponding RF quality requirement from a controller of the wireless communication system; and

means for storing the STI value and the at least one corresponding RF quality requirement in a memory of the terminal.

19. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:

means for displaying to a user of the terminal an indicator that the RF quality parameter is lower than the RF quality requirement.

20. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said means for determining at least one RF quality requirement and at least one RF quality parameter is based on means for determining one of a frame error rate (FER), a ratio of the average transmit energy to the total transmit power spectral density (E_c/I_o), and receive (Rx) power.

21. A terminal in a broadcast wireless communication system having at least one transmitter for transmitting broadcast information to the terminal over a broadcast communication channel, comprising:

a receiver for receiving a service threshold indicator (STI) value, the STI value being indicative of at least one radio frequency (RF) quality requirement defining a minimum quality of service threshold for receiving broadcast information by the terminal over a broadcast communication channel; and

a controller for measuring at least one RF quality parameter of the broadcast communication channel, the RF quality parameter defining a degree of quality in which communication is received by the terminal over the broadcast communication channel,

and preventing the receiver from tuning to the broadcast communication channel providing that the RF quality parameter is lower than the RF quality requirement.

22. The terminal of claim 21, wherein the controller further determines whether a broadcast access key (BAK) has been received, and prevents the receiver from receiving the BAK providing that the BAK has not been received and the RF quality parameter is lower than the RF quality requirement.

23. The terminal of claim 21, further comprising:

a memory; and

wherein the receiver receives the STI value and the at least one corresponding RF quality requirement from the transmitter, and the controller stores the STI value and the at least one corresponding RF quality requirement in the memory.

24. The terminal of claim 21, further comprising:

a display for displaying to a user of the terminal an indicator that the RF quality parameter is lower than the RF quality requirement.

25. The terminal of claim 21, wherein said RF quality requirement and RF quality parameter is one of a frame error rate (FER), a ratio of the average transmit energy to the total transmit power spectral density (E_c/I_o), and receive (Rx) power.